



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Likely to Adversely Affect Determination for Methyl Parathion Relative to the Threatened California Red-legged Frog

FROM: Thomas Steeger, Ph.D, Senior Science Advisor, (Certifying Scientist) *Thomas Steeger*
Environmental Fate and Effects Division (7507P) *4/22/08*

TO: Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Associate Director Environmental Fate and Effects Division

Attached is the assessment of potential effects to the threatened California red-legged frog (CRLF) from uses of the insecticide methyl parathion. While the Endangered Species Act requires that EPA assess uses of pesticides relative to any potentially affected listed species, this assessment focuses only on the CRLF, addressing provisions of the settlement agreement entered into by the federal government to resolve claims made by plaintiffs against EPA (CBD v. EPA¹).

The attached assessment was conducted consistent with the Agency's Overview Document² and results in the determination that uses of methyl parathion as currently registered may affect, and are likely to adversely affect (LAA) the California red-legged, based on direct effects on juvenile and adult frogs; and indirect effects on both the aquatic and terrestrial prey base. The Agency also concludes these potential effects on prey base constitute modification to designated critical habitat. The overall CRLF effects determination for methyl parathion use is LAA.

As required by the Alternative Consultation Agreement EPA entered into with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service Services), I have been trained by the Services to make such determinations. Additionally, this assessment was subjected to internal Agency peer review throughout its development. The review panel included two other scientists who have been trained by the Services to make such determinations (Anita Pease and Dr. Edward Odenkirchen).

¹ Settlement agreement of *Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) vs. EPA et al.* (Case No. 02-1580-JSW(JL)).

² Overview of the Ecological Risk Assessment: Process in the Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Endangered and Threatened Species Effects Determinations: January 23, 2004.

Please notify the Agency if you have any questions regarding this assessment and effects determination for methyl parathion relative to the California red-legged frog.

cc: Donald Brady
Steven Bradbury

Attachment